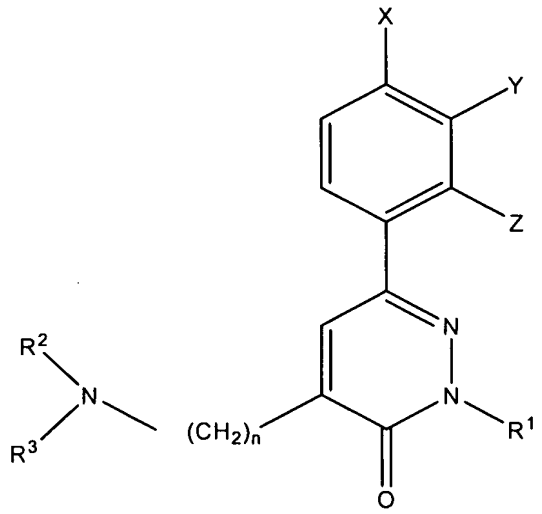
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A phenylpyridazine derivative represented by the formula (1):



(1)

wherein:

R^1 is optionally substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{12} alkyl, or substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_{12} alkenyl; wherein the alkyl can be linear, branched, cyclic or a structure containing a cylic structure therein,

wherein, if substituted, the substituent on the alkyl or alkenyl represented by R^1 is independently a substituted or unsubstituted C_6-C_{14} aryl or a 5-or 6—membered heteroaryl having 1 to 3 nitrogen atoms; and said aryl or heteroaryl, wherein if substituted, the aryl or heteroaryl are substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, C_1-C_{12} alkyl, C_1-C_{12} alkoxy, and combinations thereof;

R^2 and R^3 each independently represents hydrogen or C_1-C_{12} alkyl, hydroxy C_1-C_{12} alkyl, dihydroxy C_1-C_{12}alkyl or C_3-C_{12}alkynyl, or R^2 and R^3 are fused together with the adjacent nitrogen atom to form a substituted or unsubstituted, nitrogen-containing, saturated 5- to 7- membered heterocyclic group;

wherein, if substituted, the 5-to 7-membered heterocyclic group is substituted with at least one of a halogen atom, C_1-C_{12} alkyl, C_1-C_{12} alkoxycarbonyl or phenyl-C_1-C_7 alkyl,

X, Y and Z each independently represents hydrogen, ~~or~~ halogen, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{12} alkyl, C_1-C_{12} alkoxy, C_1-C_{12} alkylthio, C_1-C_{12} alkylsulfinyl, ~~or~~ C_1-C_{12}alkylsulfonyl, or ~~substituted or unsubstituted~~ C_6-C_{14} aryl;

wherein the C_1-C_{12} alkyl is optionally substituted with at least one of a halogen atom or C_1-C_{12} alkoxy, the aryl is optionally substituted with at least one of a halogen, C_1-C_{12} alkyl, or C_1-C_{12} alkoxy; and

n stands for a number of from 1 to 5;

with the proviso that R^2 and R^3 are not hydrogens or the same C_1-C_3 alkyl groups at the same time when R^1 is a benzyl group or a C_1-C_3 alkyl group; or a salt thereof.

Claims 2-7 (Cancelled).

8. (Original) The compound of Claim 1, wherein R^1 is a group selected from halogenobenzyl, dihalogenobenzyl, (halogenophenyl)ethyl, (dihalogenophenyl)ethyl,

(halogenophenyl)propyl or (dihalogenophenyl)propyl; $R^2(R^3)N$- is a group selected from amino, dimethylamino, piperazinyl or N-methylpiperazinyl; X is halogen or methoxy; Y is methyl or halogen; Z is hydrogen; and n stands for 1 or 3.

9. (Original) The compound of Claim 1, wherein R^1 is a group selected from chlorobenzyl, dichlorobenzyl, fluorobenzyl, difluorobenzyl, (chlorophenyl)ethyl, (dichlorophenyl)ethyl, (chlrorophenyl)propyl or (dichlorophenyl)propyl; $R^2(R^3)N$- is a group selected from amino, dimethylamino, piperazinyl or N-methylpiperazinyl; X is halogen or methoxy; Y is methyl or halogen; Z is hydrogen; and n stands for 1 or 3.

Claims 10-12 (Cancelled).

Claims 13-17 (Cancelled).

18. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of ~~any one of claims 1-12~~claim 1 or a salt thereof and a pharmacologically acceptable carrier.

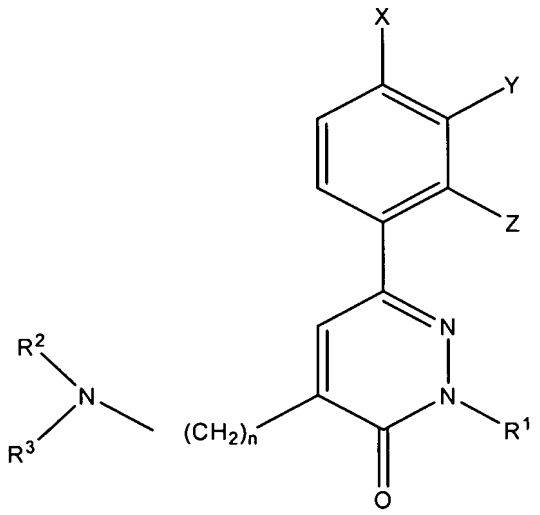
Claims 19-22 (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a disease caused by stimulation of interleukin-1β production, which comprises administering the compound of ~~any one of Claims 1-12 or a salt thereof~~ claim 1 or a salt thereof in an amount sufficient to treat the disease.

24 (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the disease is immune system diseases, inflammatory diseases, ischemic diseases, osteoporosis, or ichorrhemia.

25. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the disease is rheumatism, arthritis or inflammatory colitis.

26. (New) A phenylpyridazine derivative represented by the formula (1):



(1)

wherein:

R^1 is optionally substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_7 alkyl, or substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_7 alkenyl; wherein the alkyl can be linear, branched, cyclic or a structure containing a cylic structure therein,

wherein, if substituted, the substituent on the alkyl or alkenyl represented by R^1 is phenyl, which is optionally substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, C_1-C_7 alkyl, C_1-C_7 alkoxy, and combinations thereof;

R^2 and R^3 each independently represents hydrogen or C_1-C_7 alkyl or R^2 and R^3 are fused together with the adjacent nitrogen atom to form a piperazinyl, wherein the

piperazinyl is optionally substituted with one or more of an alkyl or a hydroxyl-C_1-C_7-alkyl;

X, Y and Z each independently represents hydrogen, halogen, C_1-C_7 alkyl, or C_1-C_7 alkoxy; and

n stands for a number of from 1 to 5;

with the proviso that R^2 and R^3 are not hydrogens or the same C_1-C_3 alkyl groups at the same time when R^1 is a benzyl group or a C_1-C_3 alkyl group; or a salt thereof.

27. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of claim 26 or a salt thereof and a pharmacologically acceptable carrier.

28. (New) A method for treating a disease caused by stimulation of interleukin-1β production, which comprises administering the compound of claim 26 or a salt thereof in an amount sufficient to treat the disease.

29 (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the disease is immune system diseases, inflammatory diseases, ischemic diseases, osteoporosis, or ichorrhemia.

30. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the disease is rheumatism, arthritis or inflammatory colitis.